

**Senate File 377 - Introduced**

SENATE FILE 377

BY QUIRMBACH

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act creating the community law enforcement enhancement fund  
2 and providing an appropriation.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 80.49 Community law enforcement  
2 enhancement fund.

3 1. A community law enforcement enhancement fund is  
4 established in the state treasury under the control of the  
5 department. The fund shall consist of moneys appropriated to  
6 the fund for the purposes specified in subsection 2.

7 2. Moneys appropriated to the fund shall be used for grants  
8 to municipal police departments and county sheriff departments.  
9 Grants may be awarded for the following purposes:

10 a. *Peace officer body cameras.* For the purchase of  
11 equipment, training, the establishment of information storage  
12 and retrieval procedures and facilities, and other expenses  
13 properly related to initiating a program for peace officers to  
14 wear and operate body cameras while on duty in the community.

15 b. *Community mental health support and services.*

16 (1) For recruiting, training, and paying a portion of the  
17 first-year salary and benefits of a community mental health  
18 advocate position within a municipal police department or  
19 county sheriff department. The duties of a community mental  
20 health advocate shall include but are not limited to the  
21 following:

22 (a) Provide access to mental health services that may be  
23 necessary after a person's contact with law enforcement.

24 (b) Act as a liaison between a local law enforcement agency  
25 and mental health services providers and agencies.

26 (c) Review departmental calls for mental health services to  
27 identify the mental health needs of consumers.

28 (d) Assist mental health consumers with identifying and  
29 obtaining services.

30 (e) Assist mental health services providers in  
31 understanding consumer needs in the community.

32 (f) Coordinate and assist with law enforcement actions  
33 requiring possible mental health services.

34 (g) Assist in developing, coordinating, and implementing  
35 mental health training.

1 (2) For expenses properly related to initiating and  
2 providing services related to the duties specified in  
3 subparagraph (1) incurred through collaboration between a  
4 municipal police department or county sheriff department and  
5 one or more local mental health organizations or social service  
6 organizations.

7 3. A municipal police department or county sheriff  
8 department may make separate applications for each of the two  
9 purposes specified in subsection 2.

10 4. Grant awards may be made for up to fifty thousand dollars  
11 per grant awarded.

12 5. The department shall allocate at least thirty percent  
13 of available funds for grants for each of the two purposes  
14 specified in subsection 2, provided that adequate qualified  
15 applications are received in each category. The department  
16 shall distribute funds as equitably as possible to achieve a  
17 balanced distribution of funds geographically within the state  
18 and among large and small communities.

19 6. Notwithstanding section 8.33, any balance in the fund on  
20 June 30 of any fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund  
21 of the state but shall remain available for expenditure for the  
22 purposes designated for subsequent fiscal years.

23 7. The department shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 17A  
24 necessary for the administration of this section.

25 8. This section is repealed January 1, 2030.

26 Sec. 2. COMMUNITY LAW ENFORCEMENT ENHANCEMENT FUND —  
27 APPROPRIATION. There is appropriated from the general fund of  
28 the state to the department of public safety for deposit into  
29 the community law enforcement enhancement fund established in  
30 section 80.49 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, and  
31 ending June 30, 2024, the following amount, or so much thereof  
32 as is necessary, to be used for the purposes of the fund:

33 ..... \$ 5,000,000

34 EXPLANATION

35 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with

1           the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

2       This bill creates the community law enforcement enhancement  
3 fund (fund) established in the state treasury under the  
4 control of the department of public safety and provides an  
5 appropriation.

6       The bill provides that moneys appropriated to the fund  
7 shall be used for grants to municipal police departments and  
8 county sheriff departments for the following purposes: for  
9 the purchase of equipment, training, the establishment of  
10 information storage and retrieval procedures and facilities,  
11 and other expenses properly related to initiating a program for  
12 peace officers to wear and operate body cameras while on duty  
13 in the community; and for recruiting, training, and paying a  
14 portion of the first-year salary and benefits of a community  
15 mental health advocate position within a municipal police  
16 department or a county sheriff department. The bill specifies  
17 the duties of a community mental health advocate which include  
18 but are not limited to the following: providing access to  
19 mental health services that may be necessary after a person's  
20 contact with law enforcement; acting as a liaison between  
21 a local law enforcement agency and mental health services  
22 providers and agencies; reviewing departmental calls for  
23 mental health services to identify the mental health needs of  
24 consumers; assisting mental health consumers with identifying  
25 and obtaining services; assisting mental health services  
26 providers in understanding consumer needs in the community;  
27 coordinating and assisting with law enforcement actions  
28 requiring possible mental health services; and assisting in  
29 developing, coordinating, and implementing mental health  
30 training.

31       The bill provides that a grant may be awarded for expenses  
32 properly related to initiating and providing services  
33 related to the duties specified in the bill incurred through  
34 collaboration between a municipal police department or  
35 county sheriff department and one or more local mental health

1 organizations or social service organizations.

2 The bill provides that grant awards may be made for up to  
3 \$50,000 per grant awarded, and a municipal police department or  
4 county sheriff department may make separate applications for  
5 each of the two purposes of the fund. The department of public  
6 safety shall allocate at least 30 percent of available funds  
7 to grants for each of the two purposes of the fund, and shall  
8 distribute funds as equitably as possible to achieve a balanced  
9 distribution of funds geographically within the state and among  
10 large and small communities. Any balance in the fund on June  
11 30 of any fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund of  
12 the state.

13 The department is directed to adopt rules pursuant to Code  
14 chapter 17A necessary for the administration of the bill.

15 The bill is repealed on January 1, 2030.

16 The bill makes an appropriation of \$5 million from the  
17 general fund of the state to the department of public safety  
18 for deposit into the fund established in the bill for the  
19 fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2024.